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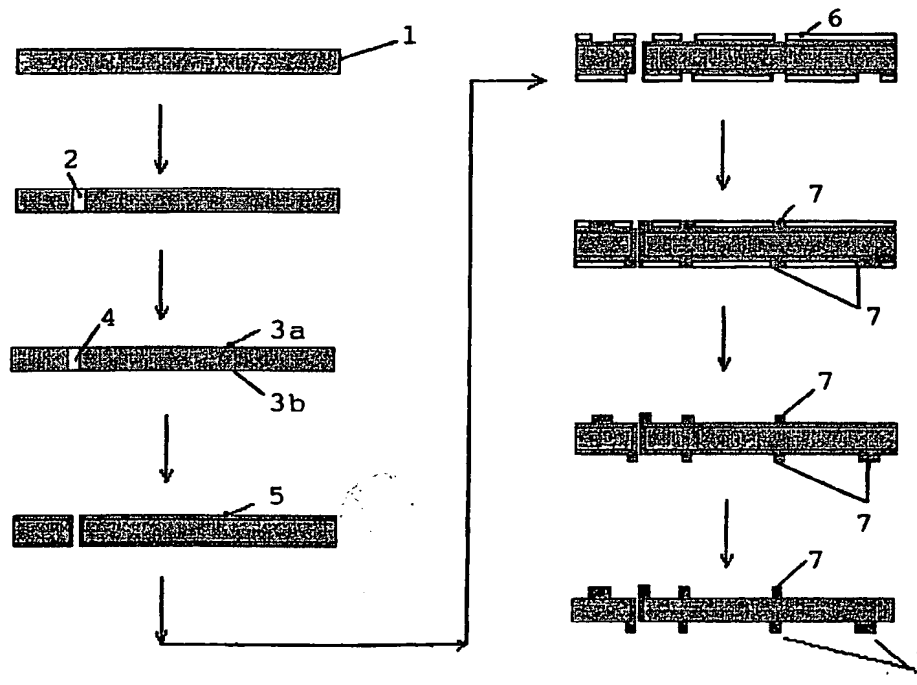
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR ELECTROLESS METALISATION OF POLYMER SUBSTRATE



(57) Abstract: A method of activating and metallising an aromatic polymer film including the steps of: treating a first surface of the film with a basic solution; applying to said first surface of the film an aqueous seeding solution comprising polymer-stabilised catalyst particles; and immersing the film in an electroless plating bath comprising ions of a desired metal so as to deposit a layer of said metal onto the first surface of said film.

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,

GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designation US

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: C23C 18/00, 18/16, 18/38, 18/42, 18/54; H05K 3/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Derwent: C23C 18/-, H05K 3/06; Keywords: catalyst+, palladium, particle+, basic+, hydroxide

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4517254 A (GRAPENTIN ET AL) 14 May 1985 Columns 1-2, 5	1-29
X	US 4770899 A (ZELLER) 13 September 1988 Whole document	1-29
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 95-317920/41, Class A85 L03 (A26) JP 07216553 A (SUMITOMO METAL MINING CO) 15 August 1995 Abstract	1-2, 10-13, 23, 27, 29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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**C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	EP 0221359 B (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION) 26 July 1989 Whole document	1-29
A	WO 9300456 A (OKABAYASHI) 7 January 1993 Whole document	1-29

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WO	9300456	AU	22280/92	EP	590046	US	5342501
		EP	502120	US	5071517	WO	9107526
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